

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes January 6, 2004

The regular meeting of the Edgefield County Council was held at 6:00 P. M. Tuesday, January 6, 2004, in the County Council Chambers, 225 Jeter St., Edgefield.

Members present:

C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman
Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman
Norman Dorn, Councilman
Joel D. Hudson, Councilman
B. Everette Kitchens, Councilman

Others present:

Wayne Adams, County Administrator
John Byrd, Jr., County Attorney
Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council
And others as per list attached

Chairman Kneece called the meeting to order and gave the invocation, after which the pledge of allegiance was recited.

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Mr. Kneece turned the meeting over to the County Attorney for the election of Chairman and Vice Chairman. A unanimous vote of council: Kneece, Chairman, and Bright, Vice Chairman.

Minutes

Motion was made by Councilman Kitchens, seconded by Councilman Bright, to approve the December 2, 2003, Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Edgefield County Council. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

Councilman Dorn asked about number three under reports: Comcast Cablevision price adjustment. Mr. Dorn asked if Comcast was the only cable provider in the county. The administrator stated there are two and both are non-exclusive franchises – means they could have competition in the area if another company wanted to lay the infrastructure and put out the up-front expense. They don't overlap in the regions that they cover currently. Comcast is notifying the county of an increase. They are required by ordinance to notify the county of increases in the cable rates.

No further discussion of any reports.

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes

January 6, 2004

Ordinances

Motion was made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Dorn, to approve third reading of Ordinance No. 03-04-443, "An Ordinance Amending Code Section §33.75 of the Edgefield County Code of Ordinances to Establish an Eleven-Member Edgefield County Hospital Board of Trustees, and to Provide for and Regulate the Terms of Said Trustees." Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilman Kitchens, seconded by Councilman Bright, to approve the recommendation of the Edgefield County Hospital Board of Trustees to appoint the following individuals to serve on the Hospital Board of Trustees: E. O. "Sonny" Dukes, Tim Padgett, Kenneth Collier, and Patricia Bryan. Motion carried unanimously.

Prior to the meeting, a letter was received from the Library Board recommending to council an individual to serve on the Library Board. Mrs. Beatrice Eubanks resigned as a Board member and Mrs. Margaret Ann Thompson agreed to fill that vacancy. Councilman Bright made a motion to appoint Mrs. Thompson to the Library Board. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hudson. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolutions

Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to approve Resolution No. 03-04-262, "A Resolution Designating the Emerald Center Multi-County Board for Disabilities and Special Needs as an Entity in Edgefield County to Provide Transportation to the Elderly or Persons with Disabilities." Motion carried unanimously. This resolution allows Emerald Center to apply for grant funding.

New Business

Motion was made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Bright, to approve the request of the Edgefield Civic League/Courtesy Center for the third quarter payment (2003-04 appropriation) of \$4,000.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Mike Casey, Emergency Preparedness Director, introduced Mr. Bernie Palmer with the National Weather Service in Columbia. Mr. Palmer, along with others, worked with the director in getting Edgefield County designated as a Storm-Ready county. Having the necessary infrastructure communications weather devices to receive weather information was one among several requirements in order to achieve this goal.

Mr. Palmer stated that Edgefield County is one of the counties that the National Weather Service in Columbia is responsible for providing forecasting warnings for. The Storm-Ready program is a voluntary program that began about four years ago. The weather service went into partnership with the local, state, and federal emergency management officials to take a pro-active approach to dealing with the severe weather that takes place in this area. They wanted to do that by increasing public awareness so people would

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes

January 6, 2004

know how to react and respond to severe weather. The county became storm-ready certified by meeting criteria set up through the Weather Service in cooperation with the Emergency Management Community. For example, the director set up a twenty-four hour warning point to distribute weather service warnings and relay the weather warnings back to the Weather Service. During the periods of weather emergencies the county has to have an emergency weather operation center and have multiple ways of receiving weather information. Mr. Palmer presented signs to Mike to be installed in the county. Mr. Palmer also presented to Chairman Kneece a Storm-Ready Certification Plaque. County will have to be re-evaluated after three years.

Mike recognized Sheriff Dobey for his facilities and his cooperation with the Storm-Ready program.

Council next considered proposals for the new EMS repeater system for Edgefield County EMS. Mike Casey explained the proposals. He stated that the Homeland Security Grant (100%) made available to the county is administered by SLED. Not FEMA money. There are some rather stringent guidelines for spending this money. A board consisting of Neil Bartley, Chairman of the Fire Board; Sheriff Dobey; Town of Edgefield Chief of Police Carter; and Jewel Plaxco, EMS, was appointed by Chief Stewart of SLED. The board had to recommend the areas that needed the most attention in the county from a Homeland Security standpoint and report back to him. It was decided unanimously that the EMS radio system needed to be replaced. The system is so antiquated that at times you have to go on the fire channel to dispatch the ambulance service. So, in determining a new two-way radio system for EMS we knew the repeater was the way to go. One transmitter site on the north end and another transmitter site on the south end on DeLaughter Dr. where the Sheriff's Office and Fire Department have their south repeaters so it can service the Merriwether area with much better coverage. This had to be put out on competitive bid. At this point the Administrator explained the specifications were published in the State Newspaper and also on what is called SCBO (South Carolina Business Opportunities). This is viewed quite often by vendors for government bids. We only got two responses for the repeater system. One of them, Kinard Control Systems, does a great deal of work for the county and also offered the lower price of the two (\$33,512.16) and was rated the best company on other issues considered in the RFP. The second bid received was submitted by Standard Electronics for \$45,482.38. The committee recommends that council award the contract for this project to Kinard Control Systems to install the EMS repeater system. The repeater is first of several projects within the scope of this \$100,000 grant. Motion was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman Bright, to accept the low bid of \$33,512.16 submitted by Kinard Control Systems for the EMS repeater system. Motion carried unanimously.

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes

January 6, 2004

Mr. Casey told council that some of the remaining grant money will be used to re-program all of the walkie-talkies because a second frequency is being added. One of the things the Sheriff would like to have is a tactical response vehicle. It would be ideal for fire in the county. The Sheriff has an armored vehicle that was donated and he would like to see that fixed up as a tactical response vehicle. It is bullet proof. We will start getting bids and ordering equipment for it. The Sheriff has some surplus radios, lights, some other things we will not have to buy to use toward the vehicle. Have a channel that will be used as a tactical channel to take some pressure off of the fire channel. This would relieve the repeater system should there be another fire while one fire is being fought. Mr. Adams would like to bury the T-1 lines between the 911 center, county council office and the courthouse, etc. to serve the sheriff's department. We have also received a grant to upgrade the EMS building with generator wiring. Won't pay for the generator but will pay to have the building completely wired. Grant also upgrades the alternate 911 center which is the Edgefield Fire Department City Hall to put in generator wiring. Also upgraded the Johnston Fire Department in the event a fiber optic cable is cut in Johnston. Should a cable be cut it would cut off Johnston from any 911 service so would have use the fire department until service could be restored. There will be additional funds in the future. May ask the grant people if courthouse security would be allowable under these funds. The Sheriff has received a grant for \$45,000-\$50,000 for a radio trunking system. It is very expensive for the county to buy. This would be an alternative means of communication. A more secure system so people could not listen in on a scanner.

Council received as information a request from the Magistrate's Office concerning a security system for that office.

Next item of business was the consideration of proposals rated for repairs to the Edgefield County Detention Center: MAR Construction (103.67) and Edgefield Construction (169.33) (200 pt. maximum). A committee comprised of Sheriff Dobey, Councilman Kitchens, Detention Center Administrator, Director of Building and Planning and the Detention Center Training Officer ranked these two firms on a scale of a maximum of 200 points with higher scores being better. They are ranked on qualifications based on their previous experience. Edgefield Construction is paired with the design firm of Moseley, Wilkens & Wood, which has experience in doing this work across the state. Therefore, they were ranked higher on the basis of qualifications. If the staff is unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with Edgefield Construction and Moseley, Wilkens & Wood, then we would either go out for solicitations again or perhaps negotiate with the other firm to see if we could get a satisfactory contract. Motion was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman Kitchens, to award the contract to Edgefield Construction for the repairs to the Edgefield County Detention Center. Motion carried unanimously.

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes

January 6, 2004

The Administrator explained the next item: Workers Compensation Audit/Budget Transfer request. Mr. Adams stated that annually after the close of the fiscal year the county is audited by its Workers Compensation carrier based on two factors – our payroll and also on experience ratings on workers compensation claims. In this case, there was a shortfall from the previous year that is not budgeted in the amount of some \$12,000.00. Budgeted last year in FY 2002-03 \$82,354 for workers compensation claims. According to the audit we are \$12,904.00 short in our adjusted premium. Also, Tri-County was short \$3,027.00. We are asking for a transfer of \$12,904.00 to pay the workers compensation shortfall. The transfer would be from 100-279. Tri-County will pay the \$3,027.00. Motion was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman Bright, to approve the transfer of \$12,904.00 from 100-279. Motion carried unanimously. For the record: Prior to the vote, 100-279 balance was \$119,283 and will now go to \$106,379.00.

An item added was the Budget Calendar for FY 2004-05. After reviewing the calendar, a motion was made by Councilman Kitchens, seconded by Councilman Bright, to approve the FY 2004-05 Budget Calendar. Motion carried unanimously.

No Old Business.

Guests

Rick Greene with Upper Savannah COG stated it looked as though the water line (283) was progressing well. He said there was some information needed from Councilman Dorn concerning this project. Also, Rick said that Ruth LaForge asked him to let council know that the next grant cycle would be later this spring. Letter of Intent would have to be received by March. She will be in touch with the administrator.

The Chairman addressed Johnny Anderson (in the audience). Mr. Kneece extended his condolences on the fatal accident at the airport. Mr. Kneece also told Mr. Anderson that “We have received nothing from your people (legal counsel concerning the airport lease) and right now we are sitting on ready – nothing we can report right now.”

No executive session.

Claims approved as follows:

A. PAYROLL: 11/24/03 thru 12/07/03

Regular.....\$117,422.39

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
Minutes
January 6, 2004

PAYROLL: 12/08/03 thru 12/21/03

Regular.....\$109,745.95

Christmas Bonus.....\$9,927.23

Sheriff Office Bonus.....\$1,800.84

B. General Operating.....\$452,230.18

There being no further business, Councilman Dorn made a motion to adjourn.
Seconded by Councilman Bright. The next regular meeting of Council will be held
Tuesday, February 3, 2004.

C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman

Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman

Norman Dorn, Councilman

Joel D. Hudson, Councilman

B. Everette Kitchens, Councilman

ATTEST

Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council

